



South Florida Water Management District

Governing Board Projects & Lands Committee MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2010

10:00 AM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Members Present:

Sandy Batchelor
Jerry Montgomery

Joe Collins
Patrick Rooney

Shannon Estenoz

1. Call to Order - Pat Rooney, Chair

Chair Rooney called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Governing Board members Charles Dauray, Kevin Powers, Shannon Estenoz were in attendance at the meeting.

Note: Governing Board member Waldman arrived at the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for the April 14, 2010, Projects & Lands Committee meeting held in West Palm Beach, Florida

Motion made by Joe Collins, seconded by Jerry Montgomery, to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2010, Project & Lands Committee meeting. Motion called. Voting yes: Patrick Rooney, Jerry Montgomery, Sandy Batchelor, Shannon Estenoz and Joe Collins. Motion passed.

3. Changes to Agenda - Jacki McGorty, District Clerk

Jacki McGorty, District Clerk, read into the record:

Section 120.525, Florida Statutes, allows the District to change the published agenda for good cause shown, as determined by the presiding officer. Based upon that authority, the Chairman has determined that good cause exists to make certain changes to the Agenda. These changes are being made in order to permit the Committee to efficiently accomplish necessary public business at this meeting and to reflect the items on the agenda that have been requested or suggested to be deleted, revised, supplemented or postponed. These changes have been listed in the Governing Committee Addendum available at the entrance to this meeting room.

4. **Fisheating Creek Watershed Project** - Keith R. Fountain, Director of Protection, The Nature Conservancy; Benita Whalen, Deputy Department Director, Environmental Resource Regulation, ext. 2957

Benita Whalen, Deputy Department Director, Environmental Resource Regulation, introduced Mr. Fountain from The Nature Conservancy.

Keith Fountain, Director of Protection, The Nature Conservancy gave a presentation regarding water storage opportunities in the Northern Everglades. The presentation focused on potential federal funding opportunities and land acquisition within Fisheating Creek. Committee members supported the use of the potential acquisition tools.

Ms. Estenoz discussed WRAC's support of the implementation of dispersed storage north of Lake Okeechobee.

Mr. Fountain explained the difference between the Federal Farm Bill Programs and Florida Ranchland Environmental Services (FRESP) Project.

Ms. Estenoz said it is very important that there are multiple programs that interested ranchers can choose from to accommodate their business plan.

Mr. Montgomery stressed the importance of maintaining a relationship with the ranchers which results in benefits to all of the programs.

Mr. Collins said he is very supportive of this program.

5. **Twin Sisters Treatment Area Public Private Partnership** - Jeff Kivett, Director, Everglades Engineering Dept., Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, ext. 4018

Jeff Kivett, Director, Everglades Engineering Department discussed the basics of a potential public/private partnership opportunity for phosphorous removal in the Kissimmee/Istokpoga Basin.

The Twin Sisters Treatment Area is a potential public/private partnership utilizing private lands and District-owned lands for stormwater treatment.

Committee discussion centered around the need for an appraisal of the property and a determination of the long-term objectives of the District so criteria could be developed to prioritize performance based projects.

Ms. Wehle suggested that the District schedule a workshop item to present examples of pay for performance projects such as the successful projects completed in St. Johns Water Control District.

6. **Potential Surplus Lands** - Ruth Clements, Director, Land Acquisition, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, ext. 6271

Ruth Clements, Director, Land Acquisition, presented the process to be utilized in surplusing District-owned land. The process has been reviewed by both the WRAC sub-committee on surplus lands and the full WRAC. In addition, there was a preview of 10 proposed District surplus lands, comprising approximately 1,097 acres, that will be voted on at the Governing Board meeting under the Consent Agenda.

7. **Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area Restoration Activities Update** - Deborah Drum, Deputy Director, Restoration Sciences Department, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects (ext. 6392)

Deb Drum, Deputy Director, Restoration Sciences Department, presented an overview of the Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area and summarized recent restoration activities undertaken by the South Florida Water Management District in cooperation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Restoration activities included a modification of the Operations Plan for Rotenberger, with an adjusted regulation schedule, and various on-the-ground restoration including exotic vegetation management, tree island restoration (tree plantings), and public education components.

8. **New Alternative Technology Assessment** - Kim O'Dell, Supervisor, Lake Okeechobee Division, Restoration Sciences Department, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects, ext. 2650

Kim O'Dell, Supervisor, Restoration Sciences Department briefed the Committee on the Request for Information process to be utilized for screening and evaluation of nutrient removal technologies presented by third party consultants. Technologies that warrant further investment may be selected for implementation on District lands or cooperative landowners properties, at no cost to the District.

9. **Public Comment**

Martha Musgrove, Marshall Foundation, supports the pay for performance program and requested to earmark dollars in the budget for public outreach regarding the program.

11. **Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Update** - Rod Braun, Director, Intergovernmental Policy & Planning Division, ext. 2925

This item was postponed.

12. **C-44 Status Update** - Ruth Clements, Director, Land Acquisition Department, and Ken Ammon, Deputy Executive Director, Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects (ext. 6271)

Ruth Clements discussed on-going negotiations with Martin County regarding right of way/road improvements associated with the construction of the C-44 Reservoir and STA. The Committee agreed with staff's position that the County should be 100% responsible for any possible future replacement of the bridge or culvert. This position will be conveyed to the County in a proposed agreement.

10. Adjournment

Chair Rooney adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Patrick Rooney
Chairman
Projects and Lands Committee

Recorded By:

Cathy Widness
Administrative Assistant Senior
Governing Board and Executive Services
SFWMD